

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated February 9, 2005, the Examiner objected to claim 9 due to an informality. Additionally, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,631,481 ("Hoard") and claims 21-23 and 25-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,646,997 ("Barton"). Further, claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,694,098 ("Warbrick"); claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard; and claims 7-10 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard in view of Barton. Finally, claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barton.

In this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 19, 21, 26, and 29 have been amended and claims 2 and 12 have been cancelled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Claim 19

The Examiner objected to claim 19 due to an informality. Claim 19 has been amended to remove the informality. Applications respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to claim 19.

II. Hoard Does Not Anticipate Current Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, and 16

Amended independent Claims 1 and 11 are directed to a method and system to manipulate in-transit digital signals riding on an optical link. Generally, an optical stream is split into a primary and a secondary optical stream. The secondary optical stream is converted to an electrical signal and ***a clock signal and a data signal are identified from the electrical signal***. A particular portion of the primary optical stream is identified based on at least the clock signal the data signal. The primary optical signal is delayed and the particular portion of the primary optical stream is modified. As admitted by the Examiner, Hoard does not disclose identifying a clock signal. Thus,

Hoard necessary cannot anticipate amended independent claims 1 and 11, or any of their dependent claims. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 11, 13, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoard.

III. Barton Does Not Anticipate Current Claims 21-23 and 25-31

Amended independent claims 21, 26, and 29 are directed to a method and system to manipulate in-transit digital signals riding on an optic link. Generally, an electrical signal is processed to determine whether to identify an active video portion, a horizontal ancillary data portion, a vertical ancillary data portion, a start active video timing portion or an end active video timing portion of an in-transit SMPTE-standard video stream. A particular portion of the in-transit SMPTE-standard video stream is then identified based on the processing and at least one bit error is introduced in the particular portion of the stream.

Barton does not disclose or suggest processing an electrical signal to determine whether to identify an active video portion, a horizontal ancillary video portion, a vertical ancillary data portion, a start active video timing portion, or an end active video timing portion of an in-transit SMPTE-standard digital video stream and identifying a particular portion of the in-transit SMPTE-standard digital video stream based on the processing. Barton is directed to a method and apparatus for basic authentication of a digital block and for carrying additional authentication information provided by a user. To embed authentication data into the digital block, predetermined bits within the block are replaced. Barton does not disclose or suggest processing signals to determine different portions within the block to encrypt by adding bit streams into the block. Thus, Barton necessary cannot render amended independent claims 21, 26, and 29, or any of their dependent claims unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 21-23 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Barton.

IV. The Proposed Combination of Hoard and Warbrick Does Not Render Current Independent Claims 1 and 11 Unpatentable.

Dependent claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard in view of Warbrick. In this amendment, dependent claims 2 and 12 have been cancelled and their limitations moved into independent claims 1 and 11, respectfully. As explained above, the Examiner has admitted that Hoard does not disclose identifying a clock signal and identifying a particular portion of the optical signal based on the identified clock signal. Like Hoard, Warbrick also does not disclose ***identifying a particular portion*** of the optical signal based on the identified clock signal.

Warbrick discloses an apparatus and method for reading and updating a packet header of an optical packet for transmission over an optical network. Warbrick does disclose using a clock recovery system to identify a clock signal. However, Warbrick does not disclose using the identified clock signal to ***identify a particular portion*** of an optical signal. Warbrick discloses using the recovered clock signal to ***synchronize a control signal and a modulator*** so the system can accurately detect an ***arrival of a header/optical signal***. Warbrick does not disclose identifying different portions of the header based on the clock signal or identifying different portions of the optical signal that the header is related to based on the clock signal.

Due to the fact neither Hoard or Warbrick disclose ***identifying a particular portion*** of an optical signal based on an identified clock signal, any combination of Hoard and Warbrick necessary cannot render independent claims 1 and 11, or any of their dependent claims unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the proposed combination of Hoard and Warbrick.

V. Hoard Does Not Render Claims 4 and 14 Unpatentable

Dependent claims 4 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard. Claim 4 is dependent of amended independent claim 1 and claim 14 is dependent of amended independent claim 11. As explained above, Hoard does not render amended independent claims 1 and 11 unpatentable. Therefore,

Hoard necessarily cannot render dependent claims 4 and 14 unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to claims 4 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard,

VI. The Proposed Combination of Hoard and Barton Does Not Render Claims 7-10 and 17-20 Unpatentable

Dependent claims 7-10 are dependent of amended independent claim 1 and dependent claims 17-20 are dependent of amended independent claim 11. As explained above, the Examiner has admitted that Hoard does not disclose identifying a clock signal and identifying a particular portion of the optical signal based on the recovered clock signal. Like Hoard, Barton also does not disclose identifying a clock signal and identifying a particular portion of the optical signal based on the recovered clock signal. In fact, Barton does not disclose or suggest identifying any clock signal whatsoever. Therefore, any combination of Hoard and Barton necessarily can render independent claims 1 and 11, or any of their dependent claims, unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal to claims 7-10 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoard in view of Barton.

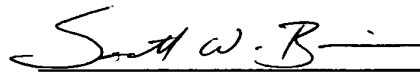
VII. Barton Does Not Render Claim 24 Unpatentable

Dependent claim 24 depends from amended independent claim 21. As explained above, due to the fact Barton does not disclose or suggest processing an electrical signal to determine whether to identify an active video portion, a horizontal ancillary video portion, a vertical ancillary data portion, a start active video timing portion, or an end active video timing portion of an in-transit SMPTE-standard digital video stream and identifying a particular portion of the in-transit SMPTE-standard digital video stream based on the processing, Barton necessarily does not anticipate, or render obvious, amended independent claim 21 or any of its dependent claims. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal to claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barton.

VIII. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Scott W. Brim", is written over a horizontal line.

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